



State of California-Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

January 6, 2005

TO: COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS, SUPERINTENDENTS
OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICTS, HEALTH SERVICES
PERSONNEL AND COUNTY OFFICES OF EDUCATION

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IN SCHOOL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
AND THE CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION (CHDP)
PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2004-2005

Purpose

This letter provides notification of the changes in legislative authority for reporting health examinations of children entering first grade.

Legislative Background

In cooperation with local CHDP Programs, the governing body of every public school district and private school that has children enrolled in kindergarten is required to provide information to the parents or guardians of all children on the importance of health to learning and the importance of receiving a health screening before the end of first grade.

The California Health and Safety (H&S) Code Section 124085 requires each child within 90 days of entrance into the first grade to provide a certificate of health examination approved by the Department of Health Services to the school where the child is to enroll. This certificate documents that within the prior 18 months the child has received the appropriate health screening and evaluation services. In lieu of such a certificate, the school can accept a waiver signed by the child's parent(s) or guardian indicating that he/she does not want or is unable to obtain health assessment and evaluation services.

Prior to January 1, 2005, the H&S Code Section 124100 required every public school district and private school in California to report the following information on an annual basis:

- The total number of children enrolled in first grade.
- The number of children who have had health screening examinations as evidenced by certificates.

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- The number of children whose parents or guardian have given written waivers that they do not want their children to receive health-screening examinations.

Changes in Legislation

AB 2855, Chapter 895, Statutes of 2004 included amendments to the H&S Code Section 124100. As amended, the H&S code no longer requires every public school district and private school in California to report data on the number of children receiving health-screening examinations at school entry. Therefore, public school districts are NOT required to submit the CHDP Annual School Report (PM 272) to the CHDP Program within the local health department and there will be no reimbursement provided. School districts may continue to gather and share this information at their discretion.

The first grade school entry health examination and immunizations are still required.

Thank you for your continued efforts to help protect the health of school children and enable children to be at their best and ready to learn.

Should you have any questions, please contact the CHDP Program within your local health department.

Original signed by Marian Dalsey, M.D., M.P.H.

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Enclosures